

# WASHINGTON CROP WEATHER

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## Crop and Weather Information for the Week Ending August 19, 2001

### WEEK IN BRIEF:

**Dry Bean Harvest Underway**

**Hot, Dry Conditions Had Winter Wheat Growers Concerned About Seed Zone Moisture**

### FIELD CROPS

Hot, dry conditions continued across eastern Washington and enabled wheat harvest to be ahead of schedule. Lack of soil moisture had producers concerned about seeding fall wheat. Potato vine killing occupied many producers as potato harvest started to pick up. Dry bean and corn for silage harvest began. Christmas tree growers continued to report heat scorch damage on Noble firs. Pea and lentil harvests continued. Bulb harvest was completed in King County.

### LIVESTOCK

Third cutting of alfalfa hay was in full swing. Grazing conditions continued to be poor with producers concerned about irrigation supplies and fire damage. Dairy producers continued to make hay and silage. Range and pasture conditions deteriorated due to hot and dry weather with 15% very poor, 50% poor, 30% fair, and 5% good.

### FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Blueberry growers reported some damage from deer browsing and additional heat units have helped ripen this years crop. Harvest of Gingergold and Early Gold apple varieties was nearly complete as early Gala harvest was getting underway. Bartlett pear, peach, and nectarine harvests continued. Sweet corn, carrot, and green pea harvests continued.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork	
This Week	Last Week
6.9	6.9

Soil Moisture	Soil Moisture and Supply			
	% Acreage			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	22	53	25	-
Subsoil	20	59	21	-
Irrigation Water	-	10	90	-
Hay and Roughage	-	15	85	-
VS=Very Short, SH=Short, AD=Adequate, S=Surplus				

Crop Progress				
Crop/Activity	% Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2000	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Harvested	59	30	66	52
Winter Wheat Harvested	83	57	88	74
Barley Harvested	46	20	67	54
Potatoes Harvested	19	16	23	19
Dry Peas Harvested	66	30	58	63
Alfalfa, 2 <sup>nd</sup> cutting	99	95	98	98
Alfalfa, 3 <sup>rd</sup> cutting	63	40	59	56
Dry Beans Harvested	5	-	7	2
Corn Harvested for Silage	2	-	6	6

Crop Condition *					
Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	-	10	38	45	7
Winter Wheat Irrigated	-	-	10	90	-
Spring Wheat Dryland	6	29	38	27	-
Spring Wheat Irrigated	-	-	10	90	-
Barley Dryland	3	37	34	26	-
Barley Irrigated	-	-	-	100	-
Dry Beans	-	-	-	100	-
Corn	-	-	-	100	-
Potatoes	-	-	5	95	-
VP=Very Poor, P=Poor, F=Fair, G=Good, EX=Excellent					

\* Crop conditions are a measure of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

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# COUNTY COMMENTS

## WESTERN

**Grays Harbor:** Very warm temperatures provided ideal corn growing conditions. The 1,700 acres of sweet corn looked very good. Growers were challenged, however, to maintain adequate levels of soil moisture. The cannery pea harvest was completed early in the week. Cannery pea acreage dropped to a total of about 200 acres this year, as a result of National Frozen Foods shifting pea acreage to the eastside of the state. U-Pick farms reported blueberry harvest was in full swing with reduced yields due to deer grazing on bushes. Dairy producers continued making hay and silage. Christmas tree growers continued to report scorch damage on Noble firs.

**King/Pierce:** Warm, dry weather continued. Bulb harvest was complete. Sweet corn, bean, and general vegetable harvest was underway. Blueberry harvest reached the halfway point.

**Snohomish/Clallam:** The weather conditions and temperatures were normal for late summer.

Mornings and evenings were cooler, with some fog during the morning hours. Wheat, blueberry, and vegetable harvest continued.

**Thurston/Pierce:** There were no unusual situations to report during the week. Crop conditions remained favorable.

**Thurston (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Scorching temperatures, in the low 90's, resulted in drought conditions throughout the county. Most ag producers with annual crops were challenged with just trying to keep crops irrigated. Blueberry growers reported fruit ripened rapidly due to additional heat units. Christmas tree growers continued shearing Grand and Douglas fir. Dairy producers continued pumping lagoons and applying liquid manure to forage fields. Newly seeded turfgrass fields under irrigation germinated rapidly. There was some concern about how far the water table may drop, resulting in additional dry wells in some areas of the county.

## CENTRAL

**Benton:** The weather was extremely hot. Harvest continued in soft fruit, early apples, and summer vegetables.

**Franklin:** Hot, dry conditions with some wind prevailed during the week. Wheat, potato, carrot, onion, and sweet corn harvests continued. Dry bean harvest began.

**Grant:** Gala apple harvest began in the early districts. Peach harvest continued. Radish seed harvest was in progress. Straw baling progressed after the wheat harvest. Alfalfa was being planted after the wheat harvest. Sweet corn harvest continued. Potato vine killing progressed. Dry bean swathing and lifting continued.

**Kittitas:** Cooler temperatures were welcomed. Irrigation water was still in short supply.

**Yakima:** Average temperatures varied from 14 degrees above normal to 6 degrees below normal, with no precipitation. No new crop losses due to weather conditions were reported.

**Yakima (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Excessively warm daytime temperatures slowed tree fruit development and reversed fruit color development on Gala apples. Gala apple harvest should start this week. Gingergold and Early Gold apple harvest was nearly complete. Harvesting of Bartlett pears should continue this week. There was a heavy crop set this year, and hot temperatures made it difficult for growers to size the fruit. While the crop should be of good quality, fruit size may be smaller than desired. Peach and nectarine harvest continued.

## EASTERN

**Adams:** Grain harvest concluded, with farmers trading combine seats for tractor seats. Seeding operations began in the southern portions of the county. Opinions varied on the adequacy of seed zone moisture; with some growers planning to

delay seeding, while others taking a business as usual approach, and seeding on schedule.

**Asotin/Garfield:** Harvest continued as the weather was hot and dry.

**Garfield (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** As harvest neared completion, except in the higher elevations, average or below average yields of winter wheat and below average yields of spring grains were the rule. Extreme heat, drought, and super dry conditions made for constant fire problems, and will continue until it cools down and rains sufficiently. Growers want to seed their fall wheat on summer fallow, but lack the moisture to do so. Fears were growing of continued grasshopper attacks on emerging fall seeded wheat and barley, as a new hatch began along the Snake River Bluffs and feeder streams.

**Lincoln:** Hot, dry temperatures brought harvest to full swing. Winter wheat yields were below average, and spring crops were very poor, which appeared to be due to frost and drought.

**Pend Oreille/Spokane:** The week was a good week for harvest. Winter wheat harvest began in most of the county. Yield reports were mixed, with some average and some below average. Peas

and lentils were being cut in the southern part of Spokane County, with yields being reported as below normal. A few acres of barley were harvested, with yields reported below normal.

**Stevens:** Grain harvest progressed nicely, with average yields reported. The past week temperatures were over 100 degrees nearly every day, with cooling during the weekend. No precipitation was received.

**Walla Walla:** Wheat, except for some spring wheat, was nearly all harvested. Garbanzo bean harvest is to begin in a week or so in some areas. At higher elevations, harvest was still a ways off.

**Whitman:** Hot, dry weather enabled harvest to progress rapidly, with good yields continuing to be reported. Grazing conditions were poor, showing the effects of high temperatures and lack of soil moisture.

# WEEKLY WEATHER STATISTICS

August 20, 2001

Station	Air Temperature				Growing Degree Days				Last Week Precipitation			Season Precipitation			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	Base 50F		Base 60F		Total			Total		% Normal	Days
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	Inches	DFN	Days	Inches	DFN		
<b>WEST</b>															
Bellingham	51	73	61	-3	77	-14	9	-18	0.00	-0.32	0	27.40	-8.27	77	145
Everett	54	75	63	-2	91	-3	21	-7	0.00	-0.32	0	24.62	-11.35	68	144
Hoquiam	50	66	58	-5	56	-28	0	-19	0.01	-0.30	1	43.92	-23.51	65	167
Kelso	48	75	64	-2	97	-6	27	-10	0.00	-0.34	0	19.95	-26.07	43	125
Olympia	42	81	61	-3	82	-13	18	-10	0.00	-0.28	0	30.33	-19.84	60	141
Seattle-Tacoma	54	78	64	-3	97	-14	27	-15	0.00	-0.26	0	25.11	-11.68	68	130
Shelton	50	81	63	-4	90	-18	21	-21	0.00	-0.27	0	41.21	-23.34	64	147
Tacoma	52	79	64	-1	102	-3	32	-3	0.00	-0.29	0	26.53	-13.27	67	134
Vancouver	51	90	67	3	121	16	51	11	0.00	-0.28	0	23.38	-17.50	57	143
<b>CENTRAL</b>															
Ellensburg	52	100	74	7	174	49	104	46	0.00	-0.07	0	6.98	-1.78	80	72
Omak	52	104	79	12	206	84	136	81	0.00	-0.28	0	6.08	-8.57	42	66
Stampede Pass	45	85	61	5	80	31	27	14	0.00	-0.44	0	54.21	-26.23	67	171
Wenatchee	54	99	79	7	205	42	135	43	0.00	-0.07	0	5.53	-2.56	68	67
Yakima AP	45	101	76	7	184	49	114	47	0.00	-0.07	0	4.75	-3.03	61	63
<b>NORTHEAST</b>															
Colville	47	102	75	9	176	61	106	57	0.07	-0.19	1	12.92	-7.87	62	80
Deer Park	41	97	72	4	157	26	88	25	0.00	-0.19	0	13.21	-5.00	73	115
Spokane AP	50	98	76	8	182	51	112	48	0.02	-0.12	1	10.34	-5.85	64	101
<b>EAST CENTRAL</b>															
Ephrata	59	102	80	6	210	39	140	39	0.00	-0.07	0	5.27	-1.86	74	69
Moses Lake	55	102	78	5	199	28	129	28	0.00	-0.07	0	6.51	-0.62	91	65
Quincy	52	99	79	9	203	59	133	57	0.00	-0.07	0	5.15	-2.52	67	57
Ritzville	46	102	78	10	198	64	128	62	0.00	-0.08	0	9.92	-1.20	89	76
<b>SOUTHEAST</b>															
Hanford	54	104	81	4	221	27	151	27	0.00	-0.07	0	6.17	-0.19	97	64
Pasco	51	103	78	4	195	26	125	26	0.00	-0.07	0	7.63	0.32	104	73
Pullman	47	96	72	6	155	42	85	36	0.00	-0.21	0	13.12	-7.67	63	106
Walla Walla AP	53	103	80	6	214	41	144	41	0.00	-0.21	0	15.44	-3.73	81	95
Whitman Mission	48	102	76	7	187	44	117	43	0.00	-0.14	0	14.09	0.57	104	101
<b>WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE</b>															
Coeur D A AP	48	97	76	6	182	43	112	41	0.01	-0.28	1	16.34	-9.12	64	102
Lewiston ID	56	106	83	9	231	62	161	63	0.00	-0.18	0	11.80	-0.28	98	104

Summary based on NWS data.

Season CUMulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2000

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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